

CLAIMS

1. A valve assembly comprising a reed, a port which is opened and closed by the reed, and damper means for the reed, the damper means comprising a tube which is in communication with the port on a side of the port remote from the reed, and the tube being of such a size that, in use of the valve assembly, the tube contains sufficient fluid to provide substantial damping for the reed.

2. A valve assembly according to claim 1 in which the tube is such that it extends vertically above the port.

3. A valve assembly according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the port is in a valve plate, and in which the length of the tube is greater than the diameter of the port.

4. A valve assembly according to claim 3 in which the length of the tube is at least twice the diameter of the port.

5. A compressor or a pump when including a valve assembly according to any one of the preceding claims.